

II. In this case, the person will still be entitled to only 6 months of presumptive disability benefits. In most States, while receiving SSI benefits, a person is eligible for Medicaid. Under this proposal, claimants who would have been eligible for SSI benefits, were it not for their receipt of DI presumptive disability benefits, would be deemed eligible for SSI, making them eligible for Medicaid in those States where SSI eligibility triggers Medicaid eligibility. When the final determination for DI benefits is made, the claimant loses the Medicaid eligibility. Medicare will be provided to disabled workers and their dependents after they have been receiving disability benefits for 24 months, including the time they were receiving presumptive disability payments.

INTRODUCTION OF DIABETES RESEARCH ACT

HON. ELIZABETH FURSE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday May 17, 1995

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, diabetes research is at a crossroads. Earlier this year, leading scientists and researchers from across America gathered in Washington, DC, at the Capitol Summit on Diabetes Research to release the white paper. The white paper demonstrated that diabetes research has reached a critical point, and that immediately increasing our focus could yield substantial and dramatic breakthroughs. Recent evidence indicates that a cure, or improvements in other disease management techniques, are within our reach to improve the quality of life for 14 million Americans who are affected by diabetes.

Today, along with Mr. NETHERCUTT, I am proud to introduce the Diabetes Research Act. This legislation would substantially increase the funds available for diabetes research at the National Institutes of Health. In light of the scientific revelations brought forth by leading researchers and endocrinologists, we must adopt a long-term strategy to deal with the problem of diabetes in America. As a nation, diabetes and its tragic complications cost our Nation over \$100 billion every year. Everyday, thousands of people go blind, have extremity amputations, or develop heart disease as a result of diabetes. We can make a difference if we only heed the call of the people who are on the front lines fighting this dreadful disease. The Diabetes Research Act answers that call.

I believe this bill could also be called the Priorities Act of 1995. In order to balance the budget and still invest in our Nation's future, we must have an open and honest discussion with the American people about our priorities. Tomorrow I am going to introduce three bills to create budgetary savings of \$1.5 billion, a portion of which could be used to pay for increased diabetes research funds. In sum, I believe diabetes research should be a priority and encourage my colleagues to follow my lead and make recommendations on how to pay for it.

My own daughter has diabetes. She is one of millions of Americans who live with this disease everyday, and I am so proud of her. I am also grateful to all the national diabetes organizations to gave their insight into the development of this legislation. I urge all my col-

leagues here in the House to cosponsor the Diabetes Research Act, cosponsor a bill to pay for it, and then let the thousands of people with diabetes in your community know you are working for their future.

TRIBUTE TO CREW MEMBERS OF THE SUGAR ISLAND FERRY BY THE HONORABLE BART STUPAK OF MICHIGAN

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 1995

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincere congratulations to the crew members of the Sugar Island ferry in Sugar Island, MI for their outstanding service to the community.

Each year, civic groups on Sugar Island choose an individual to recognize his or her contributions to the community. This year, however, the entire crew of the Sugar Island ferry was chosen to be honored for their enormous efforts for the betterment of the Sugar Island community.

The first regularly scheduled ferry to bring cars to Sugar Island was the *Service*, which began operation on July 1, 1928. On that day, 30 automobiles were transported from the island to the mainland of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. It cost 45 cents for cars and 15 cents for foot passengers to be carried across St. Mary's River. In addition to cars and trucks, the ferry also carried horse-drawn wagons during this period.

The *Service*, was in use until 1932, when it was replaced by the *Beaver*. The *Beaver* ran until 1937, when a second ferry, *Scow No. 1*, was placed into service. Later rebuilt and named *Chippewa*, that ferry was in use until a larger, steel ferry with a 12 car capacity was constructed. That ferry, the *Sugar Islander*, built in 1947, is still in use today. The Sugar Island ferry was privately-owned by the Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority in 1979.

In 1994, 252,339 vehicles were transported by the *Sugar Islander*. The ferry provides a vital link from Sugar Island to the city of Sault Ste. Marie in the Upper Peninsula. In addition to its regular service, the ferry goes out of its way to promptly transport emergency vehicles and ambulance, fire and police personnel for the benefit of Sugar Island residents.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, the ferry is known for its outstanding service. It operates every half hour in good weather and bad, 365 days a year. The highly dedicated crew works 11-hour shifts, and I commend the crew members of the *Sugar Islander*, for their unfailingly courteous and reliable service. Specifically, I would like to congratulate the current members of the Sugar Island ferry, including: Tom Stevens, Brian Dynes, Dan Cairns, Paul McCoy, Derek Myerscough, Doug Bisdorf, Mike Patten, Tim Switzer, Don Soper, Jim Gort, Jr., and Rick Brown.

I know my colleagues join me in honoring those crew members who enrich the lives of Sugar Island residents, as well as visitors to that Northern Michigan community.

YOUTH CANCER AWARENESS

HON. CHARLIE ROSE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 1995

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of this body youth cancer awareness.

More than 5 million living Americans have a history of cancer. It is estimated that among the 1 million people diagnosed with cancer this year, half will die from this disease. In my State of North Carolina alone, over 3,200 people will be diagnosed with cancer this year.

Even more alarming is the growth in reported cases of cancer in young people. Cancer is the No. 2 killer among our youth.

In my home State of North Carolina, the month of April is "Cancer Awareness Month." North Carolina has planned a number of events to emphasize the importance of cancer awareness. I would have like to have made April "National Cancer Awareness Month." However procedural changes will not permit the offering of such a resolution.

Nonetheless, I would still like to increase the public's awareness of the degree to which cancer affects young people. The key to finding a cure for cancer is in awareness of the symptoms, the causes, and the best means to address the problems raised by cancer. Increased volunteer participation and the promotion of education and research have had a profound positive impact on discovering a cure. We need to do more in this regard.

With the help of dedicated people like Miss Leslie Cobb, a Jacksonville, NC, teen cancer activist, who fight this terrible disease everyday, we will eventually find a cure. I urge everyone to do all they can to inform our youth about the risks of cancer.

LORETTA PONTICELLO HONORED FOR LIFETIME OF SERVICE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 1995

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand before my distinguished colleagues today to honor Ms. Loretta Ponticello.

It has been my observation that we are so consumed with the problems and negativism that plague our Nation that we sometimes forget about those who are working to solve these problems. We ignore the heroes who are right in our midst, choosing instead to talk about the bad news that dominates the news.

This situation needs to be corrected. That's why I take this opportunity to honor one of these heroes. She may not be featured in a movie or on television, but there can be little doubt that Loretta Ponticello is a hero to all who know her.

First, let me talk a little bit about Loretta's remarkable business career. By combining her great aptitude for business with a high standard of integrity and diligence, Ms. Ponticello has brought success wherever she has gone. After graduating from the New Jersey College for Woman—now Douglas College—she